



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Orange County Public Schools application to EPA Clean School Bus FY23 Program

Dear Mr. Regan:

I write to you today regarding Orange County Public School's application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus (CSB) Grant Program. OCPS wants to use this potential funding of \$5 million to properly dispose of 20 diesel buses in their fleet and replace them with electric buses to promote a cleaner environment, increase the number of electric school buses, decrease the idle time of school buses, and increase education and awareness of sustainable transportation.

To date, OCPS is the 8th-largest school district in the nation and the fourth largest in Florida, with 210 schools and nearly 209,000 students. OCPS proudly serves students in my congressional district who come from 209 countries and speak 168 dialects and languages, resulting in half of their student population coming from minority communities. OCPS also continues to grow rapidly, having opened five new schools in the last two years. Because of this rapid expansion, OCPS operates the largest transportation department in Central Florida, with more than 700 buses on the roads daily and more than 540 routes operated while serving approximately 58,000 students annually.

OCPS expects the further replacement of diesel buses in their fleet to benefit their underserved communities and make significant improvements to human health, the environment, and the local economy in line with the goals of the Office of Transportation and Air Quality. I humbly request that you give your full and fair consideration to this application consistent with agency guidelines. Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto
Member of Congress